

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the specification as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Amended) A nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ NO: 58, or a complement thereof.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ nucleic acid exhibiting a percentage identity of between ~~about 70% to about 90% with at least a 10 nucleotide region of the sequence of a nucleic acid of claim 2.~~ 90% to 100% with SEQ ID 58.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid ~~as claimed in any one of claims 3 or 4~~ wherein said nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

Claim 6 (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein said sequence is a marker of osteoarthritis progression.

Claim 7 (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of radioactive, fluorescent, chemi-luminescent, and chromogenic agents, and magnetic particles.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA comprising a nucleic acid according to one of claims 1 or 3 ~~4, or 8~~, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid further comprises a promoter or partial promoter region.

Claim 12-13 (Cancelled).

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in one of claims 1 or 3, or a complement thereof.

Claims 19-25 (Cancelled).

Claims 26-27 (Cancelled).

Claim 28 (Original) A transformed cell having a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Claim 29 (Previously Amended) A transformed cell having the antisense of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

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Claim 30 (Cancelled).

Claim 31 (Withdrawn).